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6 August 1969

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

MEMORANDUM FOR: Comptroller, DD/S&T

SUBJECT: Issues to be raised at 8 August 1969
ExCom Meeting

REFERENCE: Memorandum for Mr. Helms from the Director,
NRO, dated 30 July 1969, Subject: NRP
Financial Program for 1970 []

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Attached hereto are proposed OSA answers to issues 1, 2, and 3 as set forth in reference. It is understood that these are in somewhat more detail than you may need for the briefing notes, but it is felt it might be helpful for you to have the supplemental information.

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Comptroller
Office of Special Activities

Attachments

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- 1 & 2 - DD/S&T Compt
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FY 1970 FINANCIAL PROGRAM ISSUE NO. 2

A-12 AIRCRAFT IN STORAGE

1. It is recognized that SCOPE COTTON decision number 21 (27 January 1969) assigned A-12 aircraft storage responsibilities to Director, Program D, and that these aircraft and related assets were thereafter to be considered the property of the NRP.

2. However, we strongly support the D/NRO proposal for conduct of one A-12 aircraft flight test during FY 1970. It is further considered appropriate that the entire storage concept be reassessed during this same Fiscal Year. Expensive equipment, systems and hardware are being maintained in storage that could conceivably be used elsewhere.

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ATTACHMENT TO:

ISSUE NO. 3 - ADVANCED AIRCRAFT R&D

BACKGROUND:

OSA is conducting a study of Advanced Aerodynamic Reconnaissance Systems. This two phase study approved by the EXCOM explores various methods of achieving a quick reaction capability survivable primarily in the sovbloc defensive environment through the 1975-1980 period. The first phase, using FY-69 funding of [redacted] involves two contractors. [redacted] in January 1969 initiated work on the defensive threat analysis and establishment of survivable profiles and tactics options at a level of [redacted]

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[redacted] in May 1969 initiated work on a technological comparison of candidate hardware concepts meeting the profiles and tactics formulated [redacted]. This effort funded at [redacted]

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[redacted] is scheduled for completion by 30 November 1969. The second phase of the study proposed for FY-1970 funding at [redacted] would involve analysis, refinement, and further definition of one or more optimum candidate configurations in terms of hardware technology constraints in relation to the threat. This second phase would be scheduled for completion in June 1970.

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SIGNIFICANCE:

Survivability is the key to any future reconnaissance system. Analysis of the threat and survivability form a major part of this study along with technological feasibility. This study is beginning to show that survival may be questionable for a nonmaneuvering vehicle following a constant or fixed track. We feel that the results of this kind of analysis coupled with the technological feasibility and constraints involved in such parameters as maneuverability will greatly enhance the ability to weigh various options and decide upon future courses of action.

RECOMMENDATION:

One of the purposes of this study is to provide a basis for program cost estimates for a survivable system. A decision at this time to discontinue would be to prejudge the outcome of the study and deny us valuable information. We recommend against Option d. We do recommend re-approval of the FY-70 studies now with an EXCOM review after their completion in June 1970 to determine further action.

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